

5-1997

## ACUTA eNews May 1997, Vol. 26, No. 5

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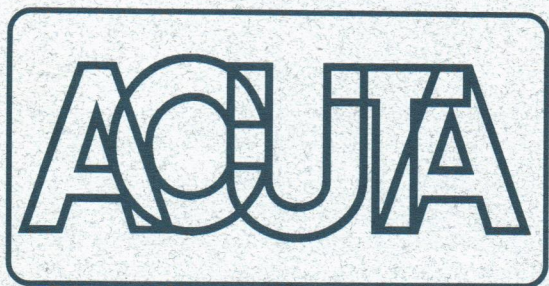
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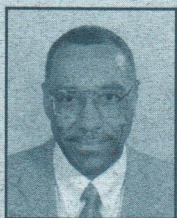




# News

THE VOICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

May 1997



## From the President

**Dr. James S. Cross**  
Michigan Technological University

### Multicasting with LEOs, MEOs, and GEOs

We are moving into an age of global connectivity and turbocharged economic and technological growth. This exciting new stage of societal development in which humanity continues to extend its reach into the dimensions of time, space, quantity, quality, size, and scope is being fueled in part by a new generation of satellite communication systems.

- **Low Earth Orbit(LEO):** Orbit arc 400-600 miles above the earth in a north-south direction over the north and south poles.
- **Medium Earth Orbit(MEO):** Orbit arc approximately 6000 miles above the earth inclined (northeast to southwest or northwest to southeast) to the equator.
- **Geostationary(GEO):** Stationary orbit arc directly above the equator approximately 22,300 miles above the earth.

Three-fourths of all new satellite launches planned in the next decade will be low orbit earth satellites that fly close to the earth's surface eliminating the signal propagation delay factor of geostationary systems. The new systems, which are cheaper to build and launch, provide direct digital links between phones, pagers, PCs, and other devices around the world. Systems which skim close to the earth's surface are ideal for voice traffic. In addition, the compact handset phones used

Continued on page 4

## Slate of Nominees Approved

The Board of Directors has approved a slate of nominees to present to the membership for election to the Board. The new officers' terms begin at the close of the Annual Conference in July.

Ballots will be mailed to voting members May 20 with instruction to return a written vote postmarked by June 7. Ballots postmarked after that date will be disqualified. Fax, e-mail, and phone votes cannot be accepted.

Serving on ACUTA's Board of Directors provides opportunity for professional and personal growth. It requires a commitment on the part of the individual as well as the institution for which he or she works. All of these nominees are to be commended for their willingness to serve the Association as Board members.

### CANDIDATES

#### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Buck Bayliff  
Wake Forest University

#### SECRETARY-TREASURER

Tony Mordosky  
Millersville University

#### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Michael Bonafair  
Shippensburg Univ.

Frank Ferrara  
Princeton University

Marianne Landfair  
Indiana Univ. System

Dawn Lotz  
Marquette University

## Be a Moderator or Monitor at ACUTA's 26th Annual Conference

One reason for the continuing success of ACUTA's Annual Conference is the enthusiastic involvement of our members.

You can be a part of this success by serving as a moderator or monitor. A moderator introduces the speaker for a breakout session and makes him or her feel comfortable. (We try to match your duties with presentations you want to attend.) Biographical information is provided so your introduction can be personal, informative, and accurate. In Atlanta we'll have a get-acquainted breakfast for speakers and moderators.

As a monitor, you will distribute, collect, and tally evaluation forms; count attendees; and report any facility or audio/visual problems so they can be resolved quickly.

If you would like to volunteer:

- Review breakout session information in your conference brochure.
- Contact Donna Hall (ACUTA's new Manager of Professional Development) at 606/278-3338 or e-mail [dhall@acuta.org](mailto:dhall@acuta.org) and choose the session you prefer.
- Await confirmation of your assignment.

It's a great way to meet people and get involved with ACUTA!



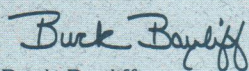
## Board Report

The Board of Directors met on April 19, just prior to the ACUTA Spring Seminar, with all committee chairpersons present as well. President Cross gave an update of the Strategic Planning project. The Board reviewed and approved the proposed '97-'98 budget prepared by the Finance Committee, and discussed proposed projects with each committee chair.

The Program Committee submitted recommendations for Seminar topics for 1998, and made several suggestions to be incorporated by the Program Chair for further review by the Board. The Board also received a report of the Program Committee's study of the number, length, and format of the Seminars, and accepted a recommendation that no changes be made at the present time.

Other discussion topics included the status of FCC regulations on Universal Service and Interstate Access Charges, an update on the Annual Conference and the Senior Leadership Forum, and status of the Institutional Excellence Awards and Student Papers Competition.

Respectfully submitted by



Buck Bayliff  
Wake Forest University  
ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer

## Univ. of Delaware to Host ACUTA Mid-Atlantic & New England Local Event

Plans are well underway for the ACUTA Mid-Atlantic and New England Area Local Event to be hosted by the University of Delaware in Newark on June 9 and 10.

Most of us are experiencing budget constraints on our campuses in regard to travel and seminars. The Local Event is designed to minimize expenses and time away from the office. This is an excellent way to attend an ACUTA event, obtain valuable information and have an opportunity to network with colleagues. The planning committee has put together an outstanding program of timely "Hot Topics in Telecommunications."

We would like to thank our participating sponsors: AT&T, Bell Atlantic, Eastern Telesoft, Intecom, MCI, Telesoft Corp., and WorldCom for all their support in helping to underwrite this event.

Special thanks must also be given to our host Donna Borden, Univ. of Delaware, and the planning committee, Tony Mordosky, Millersville Univ.; Tony Tanzi, Brown Univ.; Dave Wirth, Bellcore; and Linda Bogden-Stubbs, SUNY Health Science Center, Syracuse. Feel free to call any one of them for additional information.

### To pre-register

Call Kellie Bowman at ACUTA (606) 278-3338 if you did not receive a form. (Form is also available at [www.acuta.org](http://www.acuta.org).)

### On-site registration begins

10:00 a.m. Mon., June 9

### Registration Fee

Schools - \$50; Companies - \$75

### Hotel: Sleep Inn - 302/453-1700

Ask for ACUTA rate: \$59 single/double. Hotel cut-off: May 9

### Meeting ends

1:00 p.m. Tues., June 10

## SCHEDULE

### MONDAY, JUNE 9

#### *Introduction & Welcome*

Jim Cross, ACUTA President

#### *"Local Number Portability"*

Carole O'Brien, Bellcore

#### *"Open Forum - Interactive Member Discussion"*

Open to all attendees to share common concerns, problems and initiatives we are experiencing at our institutions.

#### *Evening Reception*

A great opportunity to network with colleagues

### TUESDAY, JUNE 10

#### *"Future ACUTA Events and Update"*

Jeri Semer, ACUTA Exec. Dir.

#### *"Licensing Issues"*

Jeff Deckman, SyNet, Inc.

#### *"Detariffing Issues"*

#### *"Internet Access Alternatives"*

#### *General Member Meeting*

## ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATORS

### ACUTA NEWS, Vol. 26, No. 5

PRESIDENT Dr. James S. Cross, Michigan Technological University

PRESIDENT-ELECT Margie Milone, Kent State University

SECRETARY/TREASURER Buck Bayliff, Wake Forest University

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT David E. O'Neill, Eastern Washington University

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE: Linda Bogden-Stubbs, SUNY Health Sci. Ctr; Donna Borden, Univ. of Delaware; Marianne Landfair, Indiana Univ. System; Anthony J. Mordosky, Millersville Univ.; Dr. Robert Sansom, FORE Systems

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Legislative/Regulatory-Ferrell Mallory, Brigham Young University • Marketing-Ron Pointer, Saint Louis University

Membership-Terry Wallace, Pepperdine University • Program/Education-Jan Weller, University of Kansas

Publications-Mark Kuchefski, Indiana University • Vendor Liaison-Patricia Searles, Cornell University

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jeri A. Semer, CAE • ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Melanie Walters

BUSINESS MANAGER Eleanor Smith • COMMUNICATIONS MGR Pat Scott • COMPUTER SERVICES MANAGER Aaron Fuehrer

MGR., CORP. RELATIONS/MARKETING L. Kevin Adkins, RCDD • MGR, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Donna Hall

MEETINGS MANAGER Lisa Cheshire • MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MANAGER Kellie Bowman

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Visit our homepage: <http://www.acuta.org>

## Dues Notices Mailed

According to the ACUTA bylaws, dues notices for 1997-98 were mailed May 1. Payment is due by July 1. ACUTA membership continues to be an excellent value, with benefits including discounts on registration fees, the quarterly Journal, monthly newsletter, participation in the listserve, and access to the resource library and a wealth of experience among a growing network of telecommunications professionals.

Please check the information shown on your dues notice carefully, making corrections before returning it with your payment. Since information from the dues notices is used to compile the Membership Directory, it is especially important that any corrections or changes be made.





## Welcome Melanie

If you've called the ACUTA office recently, you may have noticed a new voice answering your call. Melanie Walters has accepted the position of ACUTA administrative secretary.

A native Kentuckian, Melanie has attended the University of Kentucky from which she hopes to graduate "someday" she says. She enjoys walking and other forms of exercise and has even taught aerobics.

"I'm enjoying my job at ACUTA," Melanie says, "because I stay busy with a variety of tasks. It's nice to get to know the members through our phone contacts, and I look forward to becoming a more valuable part of the team."



## Spotlight

Welcome to three of ACUTA's most recent Corporate Affiliate members:

**Artel Video Systems, Inc.**, with its Utah Scientific Division, designs & manufactures fiber optic video transmission systems, video routers, production switches, character generators, & distribution systems for TV broadcast, production/post production, cable TV, & campus networks. *Olga Vlahov, 508/303-8200 x226*

**OmniLink Communications** ([www.omnilink-isdn.com](http://www.omnilink-isdn.com)) manufactures ISDN products which integrate ISDN with existing communications equipment, providing a cost-effective solution with improved technology. Enhancements include remote management, EKTS, and Plug-and-Play installation. *Kevin Schumacher, 517/336-1800*

**Perfect Patch, Inc.**, ([www.perfectpatch.com](http://www.perfectpatch.com)) is the developer of the PerfectPatch, a product that makes your patch cord "adjustable." Works on Cat 5 UTP and fiber optic cords. Gets rid of the "rat's nest" associated with slack in patch cords. *Tom Suder, 703/450-9336*



## ACUTA Committees at Work Program Committee

**Jan Weller, Univ. of Kansas**  
*ACUTA Program Committee Chair*

ACUTA's Program Committee has undergone several changes in the past two years as well as implemented new programs. A summary of these activities is provided here.

1. Evaluated the ability of a volunteer committee to effectively deliver three seminars and an annual conference. The Committee recommended and the Board approved the transfer of all activities associated with seminars to the Executive Director and ACUTA staff. One or two Committee members will consult with ACUTA staff to ensure seminar content and speakers are appropriately focused.
2. Evaluated, in conjunction with the Marketing Committee, whether ACUTA should explore and enter into collaborative activities with other professional organizations. The Committee recommended and the Board approved collaborative events and charged the ACUTA staff with evaluating and recommending collaborative activities. Policies and operational procedures regarding these activities for staff and Committee were part of this recommendation.
3. Recommended to and Board approved offering corporate presentations at Annual Conference and seminars. These have been successful with vendors and members.
4. Recommended and implemented Pre-conference seminars of half- and full-day duration. These, too, have been successful. Pre-conference seminars are educational offerings that the Committee believes are important to our members' growth, but whose content is ancillary to the information that we are charged with providing in the Annual Conference tracks.
5. Restructured the Annual Conference using a track format and assigned one Committee member per track to

coordinate content, speakers and activities. Committee members author all speaker introductions as well as host a speaker/moderator breakfast on Monday morning at the conference. The Committee Chair selects, whenever possible, the keynote and general session speakers. The Committee also selects the Conference theme.

6. The Committee determines and recommends to the Board seminar topics (as well as the focus of each) for one year in advance. Topics for Winter, Spring, and Fall 1998 seminars have been selected from the survey responses the Committee sent to members earlier this year.
7. The Committee evaluated and made a recommendation to the Board regarding changes to the number of seminars currently being offered. Our thanks to ACUTA members for providing input (via a survey) that allowed the Committee decision to more accurately reflect member needs.

The Program Committee is extremely active and focused. From August through December, and April through June, the Committee meets via conference call once a month. Between January and March, the Committee meets once a week.

Current Program Committee members include: Jan Weller, Univ. of Kansas, Chair; Jeanne Jansenius, Univ. of the South; Anne Apicella, Univ. of New Mexico; Joe Brown, Univ. of Wisc./Stout; Rich Lehn, Univ. of No. Dakota; Tom Walsh, Miami Univ.; Jim Cross, Michigan Tech, Ex Officio; Linda Bogden-Stubbs, SUNY Health Sci. Ctr., Syracuse, Board Liaison; Jeri Semer, ACUTA Exec. Dir., Ex Officio; Lisa Cheshire, ACUTA Meetings Mgr., and Donna Hall, ACUTA Mgr. of Professional Development, Staff Liaisons.

Members who are interested in participating on the Committee that shapes program content should submit their name, school, phone number, and e-mail to any Committee member. New members bring energy and fresh ideas to the planning table, and we invite you to participate on this very important ACUTA Committee.



## President's Message

Continued from page 1

with these systems require less power and use smaller batteries.

This new generation of satellite systems are capable of delivering lightning-speed high-bandwidth access anywhere, anytime, to the remotest reaches of the world. New service options and transmission speeds will offer cyber-savvy users one-stop shopping for phone, fax, paging, and internet services that are affordable and portable. There are no technological borders dividing countries, central offices, miles of copper pairs, fiber links, microwave towers, or dishes; just the sky. The new generation of satellite wireless services offers the promise of expanded coverage, compact handsets, reduced airtime rates, and lower equipment costs.

Although mobile satellite access has been around for quite awhile, astronomical airtime rates, equipment cost, equipment size, and lack of portability have severely limited the appeal of the technology. Older phone units weighed over 50 pounds and were about as portable as a standard size footlocker or trunk.

New technological developments and increased competition are driving the new generations of systems that promise to offer:

- Phones similar in size and weight to cellular models
- Units that retail for less than \$1000
- Airtime for around \$1 per minute

The new portfolio of satellite communication services being built will change the way we live, work, play, and communicate. The maturity of an affordable portfolio of integrated LEO, MEO, and GEO satellite communication services will inevitably change the rules of infrastructure planning and deployment. A new set of paradigms will evolve that embrace global digital wireless access for voice, data, and video. New visions and criteria that defines high-quality high-bandwidth access now and in the future will also evolve. In time, the new paradigms, visions, and criteria will provide the basis for assessing current and future business processes, products, and services in the knowledge age university of the 21st Century.

## Annual Conference Rich with Educational Content

The educational sessions at the upcoming 26th Annual Conference & Exhibition in Atlanta include a wide variety of educational programs, designed to meet a wide range of member needs. A quick review of the Conference brochure or information on the ACUTA Web site reflects what we all know—that telecommunications management isn't about voice telephony anymore. It's about supporting the university's mission by delivering access to information, learning opportunities, and services via technology.

"Connecting Education to the Future" is the theme, but definitions of the "future" range from next week to next semester to five years down the road. Many of the innovations and technology demands of the future are already here, and ACUTA members need to be prepared to help their institutions make wise choices from an extensive (and expensive) array of options!

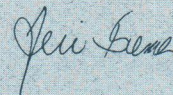
The general sessions, pre-conference seminars, breakout sessions, user group meetings, and product/service exhibition at the Annual Conference are designed to stimulate strategic thinking about your institution's future needs and provide practical management and technology information that you can use in your operation immediately.

Some of the highlights are:

- In-depth pre-conference seminars on Introduction to Telecommunications and Networking, Project Management, State Legislative/Regulatory Issues, and Home Page Development and Management.

## From ACUTA Headquarters

Jeri A. Semer, CAE  
Executive Director



- General sessions presenting a vision of the future of higher education and telecommunications' role as a strategic asset to the university, and exploring the complex legislative and regulatory changes shaping the environment in which we work.
- A Senior Leadership Forum, designed to provide an opportunity for senior university administrators to explore strategic technology and higher education issues.
- Breakout sessions presented by your peers, including ample opportunities for interaction and discussion.
- User Groups for a wide variety of technology products, exclusively for higher education users.
- An exhibition displaying the latest developments in technology and services for higher education.

In an era of limited time and funds for professional development, the ACUTA Annual Conference is an excellent investment. This is the only major conference focused exclusively on your needs as a telecommunications manager in higher education, and you can't afford to miss it!



Adaptability, creativity and innovation, enterprise, and continuous learning will quickly become the characteristics of the successful employee in the information society. The successful organizations...will be those that invest in their employees' continuous learning, adopt highly flexible network structures, and can best predict the fast-changing nature of global market trends.

—Dave Stanley  
*Pacific Telecommunications Review*  
Sept. '96, p. 26





## D C at a Glance

*Whitney L. Johnson*

### Merger between SBC and Pacific Telesis Group

In a special report on April 4th, 411 reported that this merger has been completed and the new company, SBC Communications, is now in operation. This is, according to 411, the third largest merger in U.S. history. Conditions tied to the merger include a refund to California customers of \$248 million during the next five years. The company must also show that they can meet the requirements of the CPUC for operation in the state.

Also noted in 411, the merger between NYNEX and Bell Atlantic should be complete in the near future. This merger has obtained regulatory approval in New York and now needs approval from the Department of Justice and the FCC.

### Universal Service

The ACUTA listserve has had several listings lately concerning some of the implications of various access charges and other fees that may appear as the source of revenue necessary to pay for the Universal Services plan that is soon to be announced.

According to *Telecommunications Reports* (TR 4/14), the FCC will issue an order by May 8 that addresses all of the universal service goals outlined by Congress in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. FCC Chairman Hundt said the Commission's forthcoming order will do the following:

- Address support for rural and small telephone companies
- Provide support for high-cost areas served by large telcos
- Establish a "competitively neutral" way for assessing contributions to LTS (long-term support funding for small telcos) and DEM (dial-equipment minutes) weighting
- Address the telecom service needs of disabled citizens
- Address low-income support programs
- Support connecting classrooms to the Internet
- Support telemedicine applications

The total cost of Universal Services, as much as \$4.45 billion, would provide \$2.25 billion for schools and libraries, \$500 million for low-income subscribers, \$250 million for rural health care providers, \$750 million for the high-cost fund, \$400 million for long-term support, and \$300 million for dial-equipment minute weighting.

### FCC Commissioners

Three names have been proposed for the FCC commissioners and are under consideration by the White House and the Senate:

- Christopher A. McLean, currently an aid to Senator Kerrey
- Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Chief Economist for the House Commerce Committee
- Michael Powell, Chief of Staff in the Justice Dept.'s Antitrust Division

Some hope that these appointments will be complete by June while others speculate that it will be early in the fall before the seats are filled.

## Regulation of BOC Long Distance Services Revised

The FCC has revised its treatment of Bell operating companies' and independent local exchange carriers' provision of domestic interstate long distance and international services. Common Carrier docket 96-149 and 96-61 proceedings classify BOCs' long distance affiliates as "non-dominant" for the provision of interstate long distance services that originate in their parent companies' local calling regions.

The Commission concluded that "regulating BOC long distance affiliates as dominant carriers generally would not help to prevent the BOCs or their affiliates from engaging in anti-competitive conduct to disadvantage their long distance competitors."

Other provisions of the order include:

- Classification of independent LECs as non-dominant in the provision of in-region, interstate long distance services; however, such services must be provided through separate affiliates.
- Classification of BOC and independent LEC long distance affiliates as non-dominant in the provision of in-region international services unless a company is "affiliated with a foreign carrier that controls bottleneck facilities in a foreign market."
- Classification of BOCs and independent LECs as non-dominant in the provision of out-of-region long distance services and elimination of the requirement that those services be provided through separate affiliates.

## Welcome New Members

April, 1997

(Only primary representatives are listed here)

### Institutional Member

- **Monmouth Univ.**, W. Long Branch, NJ. John King, 908/571-3409; Tier 2
- **Philadelphia College of Pharmacy & Sci.**, Philadelphia, PA. Patrick Lepore, 215/895-1142; Tier 1
- **Univ. of Puerto Rico**, Mayaguez, PR. Carlos Olivencia, 787/832-4040; Tier 3

### Emeritus Member

- **Luis Klitin**, Ret. from Miami Dade Comm. College; Miami, FL

### Corporate Affiliate

COPPER LEVEL

- **Artel Video Systems, Inc.**, Marlborough, MA. George Maier, 508/303-8200
- **Midwest Telecom Resellers Ltd.**, Ballwin, MO. Michael Forst, 314/394-8000

- **OmniLink Communications**, Lansing, MI. Kevin Schumacher, 517/336-1832
- **OpTex, Inc.**, Columbus, OH. Laura Henderson, 614/793-8443
- **Perfect Patch**, Sterling, VA. Tom Suder, 703/450-9336
- **SpectraCorp Technologies Group, Inc.**, Dallas, TX. Wendy Simon-Pryne, 972/671-1700
- **Telrepco Services, Inc.**, Wallingford, CT. Scott Latimer, 203/269-5151



# Update...

Position descriptions may be abbreviated in the newsletter.  
For complete details see ACUTA's homepage: [www.acuta.org](http://www.acuta.org)

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## **2 Positions Available: Accountant & Senior Accountant, Florida State University**

**Accountant/Telecommunications (PG17-##60864)** Telecommunications: Experience with automated accounting systems, financial reporting, spreadsheet/database software, & telecom billing. Accounting degree preferred but not required. Excellent written/oral communication skills essential.

**Senior Accountant (PG21 - #60019)** Telecommunications: BA/BS or equiv. required. Exp. with automated accounting systems, financial statement preparation & analysis. Spreadsheet, database, & presentation software exp. required. Excellent written/oral communication skills essential.

Submit FSU Application & resume to: University Personnel, 6th Floor, University Center, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306. Phone 904/644-6034 for application.

## **Position Available: Assoc. Director for Operations, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago**

**Responsibilities:** Major research university (includes hospital & medical center) seeks Telecommunications Associate Director for Operations to supervise voice, data, & video services. **Qualifications:** Five years exp. with large voice system in a University or other large organization; knowledge of data networks; excellent organization, written & oral presentation skills. BA/BS required; Masters a plus. Position available immediately.

**Contact:** Submit resume & five references by May 31 to: Mirta Mendez; Univ. of Illinois, Dept. of Human Resources, M/C 862, 715 S. Wood St., Chicago, Illinois 60612 AA/EOE

## **Position Available: Systems Administrator, Univ. of Richmond**

The University of Richmond is seeking a Systems Administrator skilled in set up of operation systems and managing their day to day activities. **Qualifications:** Ideal candidate will have significant experience with Unix (System V compliant), Korn and C Shell. Background in Oracle, Shell and Ansi-C is also necessary. Experience with Sequent SE-60 is a big plus. Individuals meeting these qualifications and who have a Bachelor's degree or the technical equivalent along with strong communication skills and a desire to grow are encouraged to apply. **Contact:** Send resume, including salary requirements, to Human Resource Services, 201 Maryland Hall, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173, or fax to (804) 287-6474.

## **Position Available: Asst. Mgr., Telecomm. (Operator Services), Univ. of Illinois, Chicago**

**Responsibilities:** Coordinate/supervise 24-hr/7-day Telecom Operator Services Call Center Operation. Assist Assistant Dir. to devise policies, goals & objectives of dept. Serve as liaison between UIC & service providers; create & implement plans for Information Service; develop training programs for accurate, efficient call processing; devise marketing strategies focusing on TQM & Customer Service. **Qualifications:** BA/BS plus 5+ yrs. exp. at managerial level in telecom environment. Can substitute experience for degree; supervisory exp.; technical emp. reports; knowledge of telephone switching circuitry; familiar with industry principles & procedures for TQM, Operator Services; Personnel Training & Development. **Contact:** Craig Olson, Asst. Director, Telecomm, Univ. of Illinois, 1140 S. Paulina, Chicago, IL 60612. Ph 312-996-3082. E-mail: [olsonc@uic.edu](mailto:olsonc@uic.edu)

## **Tax-Free Employee Educational Benefits Information**

A new Web site provides information about tax-free employee educational benefits covered by the on-again, off-again section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code. Get the latest information at [www.cupa.org/Section127.html](http://www.cupa.org/Section127.html).

## **Smart Card Links Satellite TV Signal to PCs**

Want to receive TV signals on your home PC? According to the *Wall Street Journal* (3/21/97), Adaptec has developed a smart card that links a personal computer to a direct-to-home satellite system. The company is banking on the new interactive services being developed by satellite-TV providers, including Web sites and specialty multimedia programming.



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